

National Cancer Institute

Clinical Studies

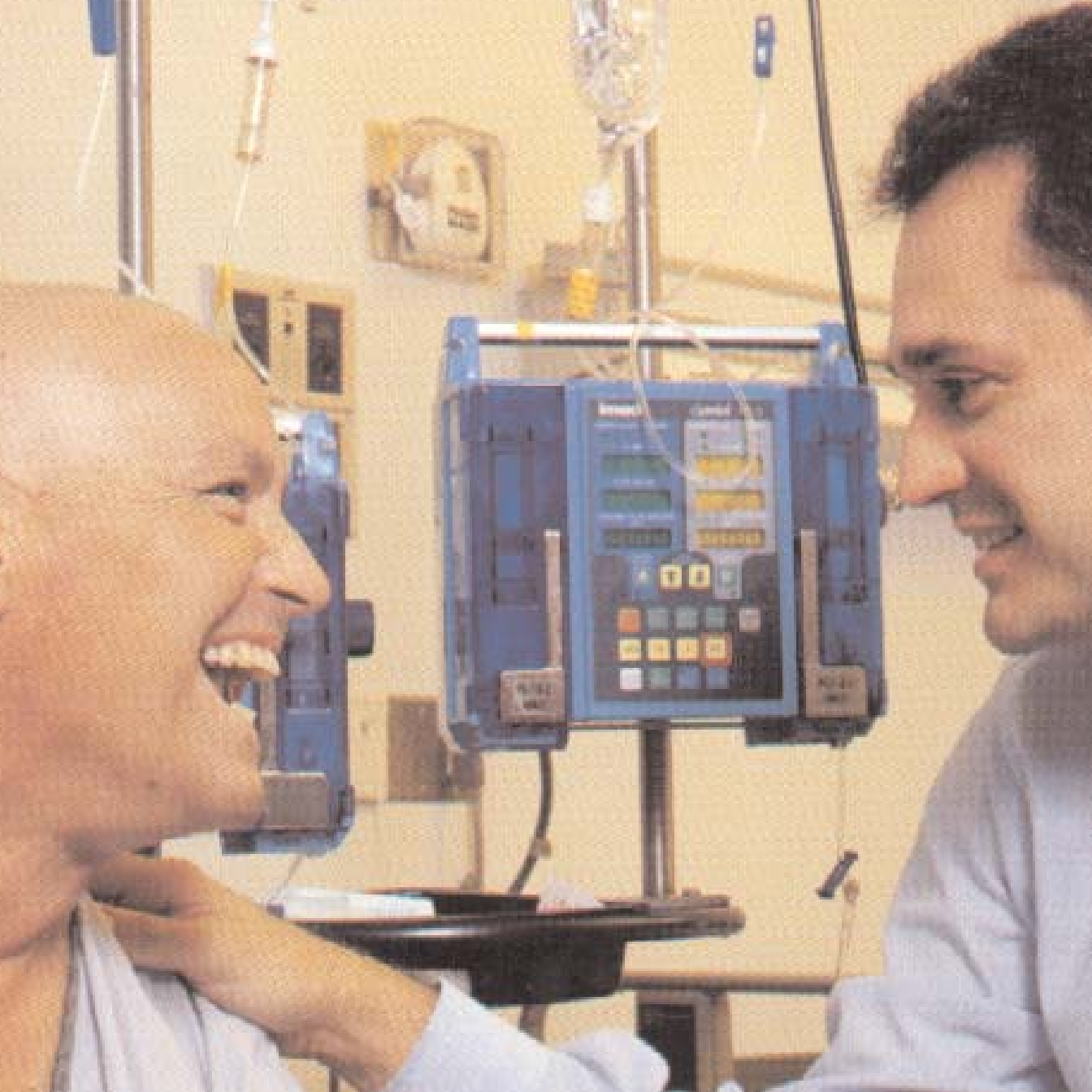
at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland



- What is a clinical study?
- How can I find a study that's right for me?
- How do I know if I can participate?
- How can I get more information?



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Working Toward A Cure

The National Cancer Institute

Founded by Congress in 1937, the National Cancer Institute is a world leader in developing lifesaving treatments for cancer. The mission of the National Cancer Institute is to find the cure for cancer. Toward fulfilling that mission, every year the National Cancer Institute treats thousands of people from around the country through its clinical studies program.

The National Cancer Institute is home to many of the major breakthroughs in cancer research and care. Here, researchers discovered that cancer can be hereditary and that some cancers are caused by viruses. These and other advances have led to better diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of adult and childhood cancers.

As part of its clinical research program, the National Cancer Institute conducts clinical studies at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center, located on the campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Studies that take place on the Bethesda campus are open to patients with cancer, no matter where they live within the United States.

In addition to clinical studies taking place at the campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, the National Cancer Institute sponsors clinical studies at designated cancer centers throughout the country. These constitute the majority of National Cancer Institute-sponsored clinical studies. This booklet includes only information about clinical studies taking place at the Bethesda campus. For information about National Cancer Institute clinical studies taking place at other locations across the nation, call 1-800-4-CANCER.

For more information call the Clinical Studies Support Center at 1-888-NCI-1937

Clinical Study Phases

Most clinical studies progress in an orderly series of steps, called phases, and are usually classified into one of three phases:

Phase I studies are the first step in testing new treatments in people. Researchers look for the best way to administer a new treatment and how often to give it. Because less is known about the possible risks and benefits, Phase I studies usually include a small number of patients who are not likely to be helped by other known treatments.

Phase II studies focus on learning whether the new treatment can shrink a particular tumor, improve blood test results, or produce other desirable effects. As in Phase I, only a small number of people take part because of the possible risks and unknowns involved.

Phase III studies compare a new treatment with standard treatment. Because more is known about a treatment, Phase III studies may include hundreds or thousands of people around the country.

Clinical Studies

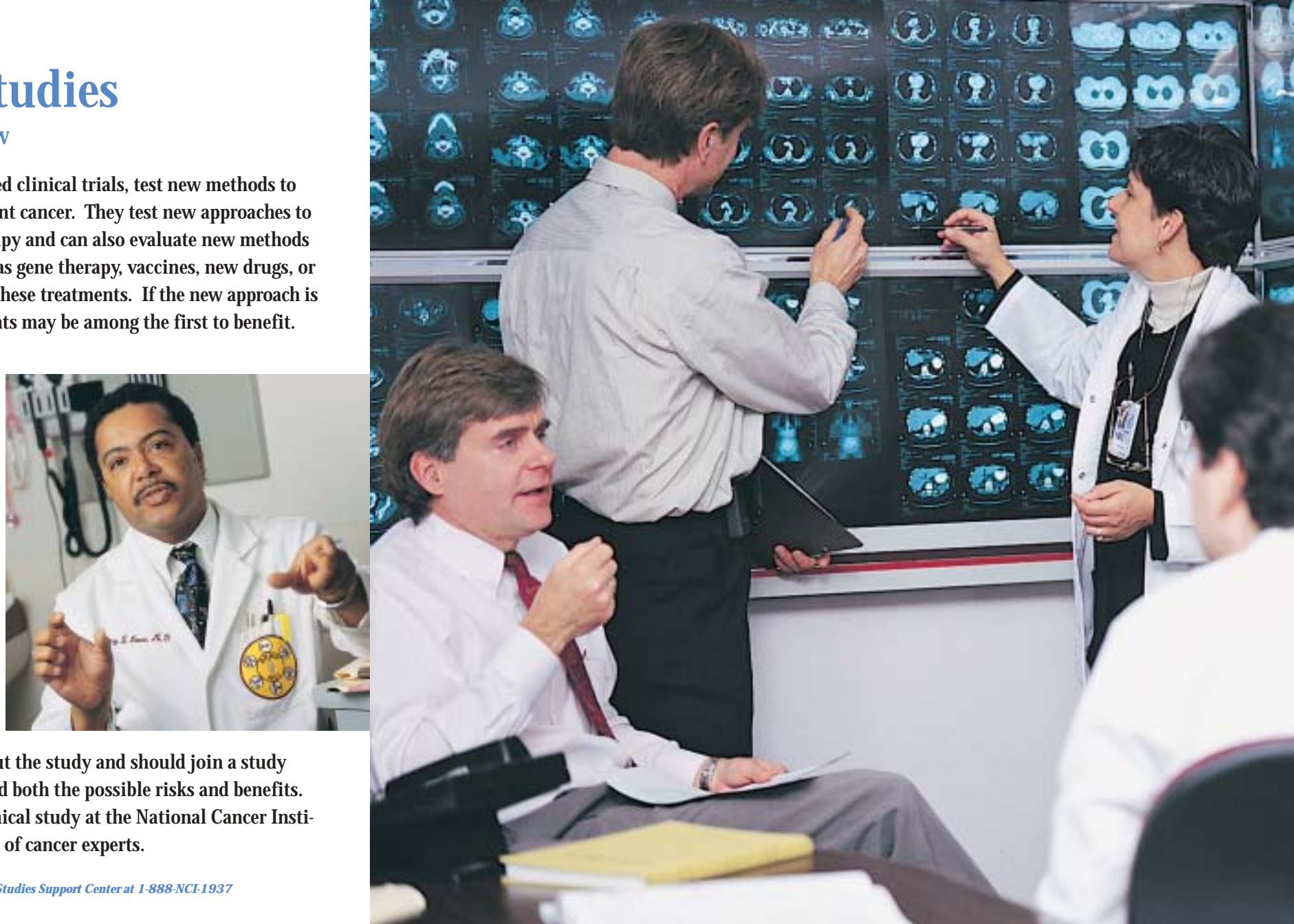
Today and Tomorrow

Clinical studies, also called clinical trials, test new methods to treat, diagnose, and prevent cancer. They test new approaches to surgery or radiation therapy and can also evaluate new methods of cancer treatment such as gene therapy, vaccines, new drugs, or various combinations of these treatments. If the new approach is effective, study participants may be among the first to benefit.

Clinical studies are one of the final stages of a long and careful process of cancer research. Only those treatments that offer promising results in tests done in the laboratory are used in clinical studies involving people. However, there are no guarantees that a new treatment will produce good results.

Patients will receive detailed information about the study and should join a study only after they understand both the possible risks and benefits. Everyone who joins a clinical study at the National Cancer Institute is cared for by a team of cancer experts.

For more information call the Clinical Studies Support Center at 1-888-NCI-1937





Treatments Used in Clinical Studies

Anti-angiogenesis

Prevention of the growth of new blood vessels to a tumor by adding a natural or synthetic substance that stimulates the production of antibodies by the immune system.

Bone marrow transplantation

A procedure to replace bone marrow destroyed by high doses of anticancer drugs or radiation treatments.

Chemotherapy

Treatment with anticancer drugs given orally, topically, or intravenously.

Hormone therapy

The removal, blockage, or addition of hormones to halt or limit cancer cell growth.

Immunotherapy

Treatment to stimulate or restore the ability of the immune system to fight infection and disease.

Radiation therapy

Treatment using x-rays, neutrons, and other sources of high-energy radiation to kill cancer cells and shrink tumors.

Surgery

Removal of a cancerous growth through an operation.

Vaccine

A compound or group of compounds designed to produce a patient's immune response to a tumor or disease.

Joining A Clinical Study

Joining a clinical study may be a big decision. But we can help you find out if there is a study that is right for you.

That's why there's the Clinical Studies Support Center—a central source of information on all clinical studies offered at the Bethesda campus of the National Cancer Institute.

Our highly trained staff can provide you with the latest information on cancer-related clinical studies. We will even send you summaries on specific studies that you can share with your doctor to see if one might be right for you.



For more information call the Clinical Studies Support Center at 1-888-NCI-1937



Clinical Studies Support Center

1-888-NCI-1937

When you call our Clinical Studies Support Center you will speak with one of our information specialists, who will help you search for an appropriate study. They can tell you about the studies that are being conducted for your type of cancer, who can join, the method of treatment being studied, and how to take the next step if you are interested in participating. They will talk to you in language you can understand. And you can expect answers that are personal and confidential.

At the Clinical Studies Support Center, we receive calls from hundreds of people each month—many who have just been diagnosed with cancer, some who are already receiving treatment, and some who have a family member or friend with cancer. We also assist physicians looking for studies for their patients.



For more information call the Clinical Studies Support Center at 1-888-NCI-1937

How You Can Find A Clinical Study

at the Bethesda, Maryland, campus of the National Cancer Institute

When you have decided that clinical studies are an option you want to consider, follow these steps to see if there is a study that is right for you.

1. Find Out What Studies Are Available

The easiest way to find out about clinical studies taking place at the Bethesda campus of the National Cancer Institute is to call the Clinical Studies Support Center at 1-888-NCI-1937.

When you call this number, an information specialist will ask you several questions about your health, including the type of cancer you have, its stage of development, and treatment you've received. Based on this information, you will receive summaries of clinical studies that appear to be a good match for you.

The summaries include information on what kind of treatment is offered and who may enroll.

2. Involve Your Doctor

After you receive your clinical study summaries, you should review them with your doctor. If you both decide that you might benefit from one of the studies, ask your doctor to call the contact for that study.

Your doctor will need to provide specific medical information and test results to determine whether you are eligible for further screening.

3. Schedule a Screening Visit

If a study looks like a good match for you, you can schedule a screening visit at the Bethesda campus of the National Cancer Institute.

Prior to your screening visit, you will receive a packet of information containing maps, travel and hotel information, and instructions on what to bring.

During your visit, you will also meet the study doctors and staff who can help you decide if you want to join the study. They may ask you to take some medical tests to determine if you qualify for a study.

4. Decide Whether to Enroll

If you are eligible to join a clinical study, you will need to decide if you want to participate. This is an important personal decision that only you can make. However, it is often helpful to discuss this decision with your physician and those close to you.

Considerations should include possible risks and benefits and how the study will affect your everyday life. If you join a study, you will be asked to sign a consent form.

You may withdraw from a study at any time. If you choose to leave the study, you will have the chance to discuss other treatment options with the study team.

To find out more about clinical studies at the Bethesda campus of the National Cancer Institute, call the Clinical Studies Support Center at 1-888-NCI-1937 (1-888-624-1937) Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., eastern standard time.



Cancer Resources

from the National Cancer Institute

Clinical Studies Support

Center 1-888-NCI-1937

<http://bethesdatrials.nci.nih.gov>

The Clinical Studies Support Center provides personalized information on clinical studies taking place at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. You can receive summaries of clinical studies being conducted for a particular type and stage of cancer.

For general information about clinical trials, you can request a copy of the booklet "Taking Part in Cancer Treatment Studies: What Patients Need To Know" by contacting any of the above resources. You can also view this booklet online at <http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials>.

Cancer Information Service

1-800-4-CANCER

TTY: 1-800-332-8615

www.cancer.gov

The Cancer Information Service provides accurate, up-to-date cancer information. You can request information on clinical studies sponsored by the National Cancer Institute and some studies conducted by independent investigators at hospitals and medical centers in the United States and Europe. You can also receive brochures on specific types of cancer and other cancer-related topics.

National Cancer Institute Web Site

www.cancer.gov

The National Cancer Institute's Web site provides links to information and resources for patients, researchers, health professionals, and the general public. The Clinical Trials section of this site enables you to search for studies currently underway throughout the United States.

For more information call the Clinical Studies Support Center at 1-888-NCI-1937

What are the costs?

Clinical studies at most hospitals require patients to pay for their medical care. However, because of the nature of the research conducted at the National Cancer Institute's Bethesda campus, and by Congressional mandate, all medical services at the Bethesda campus are provided at no charge to clinical study participants.

Before joining a clinical study conducted at the National Cancer Institute's Bethesda campus, you will need to come to the National Cancer Institute for a screening visit. You will be responsible for all travel costs related to your screening visit. If you are eligible and decide to enroll in a clinical study at the Bethesda campus, your travel will be arranged and paid for by the National Cancer Institute.

You should maintain your current insurance plan to cover all medical care not covered under the study, as well as any care that is provided away from the Clinical Center.

Where is the National Cancer Institute?

The National Cancer Institute is located just outside of Washington, D.C., on the campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. If traveling by car, you will find the campus just south of Cedar Lane between Rockville Pike and Old Georgetown Road. If you join a study, almost all of your care will be provided in the Clinical Center (also called Building 10). Patient parking is located under the Clinical Center. If traveling by public transportation, you should take the Red Line Metro to the Medical Center stop.

